



**Written comments for Senate Families, Children and Seniors
Subcommittee hearing on 2/25/15**

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital
DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan
Henry Ford Health System
Hurley Medical Center
University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and
Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American Congress
of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County
Public Health Department
College of Health and Human Services,
Eastern Michigan University
Detroit Department of Health
and Wellness Promotion
Genesee County Health Department
Health Department of
Northwest Michigan
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Michigan Association for
Infant Mental Health
Michigan Coordinated
School Health Association
School-Community Health Alliance
of Michigan
Tomorrow's Child

GENERAL MEMBERS

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
of Michigan
Maternal-Newborn Nurse Professionals
of Southeastern Michigan
Michigan Association of School Nurses

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Zaagman
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Dear Chairman Emmons and members of the committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Amy Zaagman and I am the executive director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health. The Council's membership includes large hospital systems, statewide organizations and local entities with a mission to advocate for policies that support the health of women and children. MCMCH includes many of the providers and coordinators of special health care services for children in our state.

We support Senate Bills 112, 113 and 114 that seek to update the term "crippled child" in various Michigan statutes. In combination with House Bills 4203, 4204 and 4205 that we hope will be before you in the near future, these bills modernize language that is considered derogatory and limiting in scope for today's standards of care.

"Children and youth with special health care needs" is the appropriate way to refer to children whose health conditions may warrant special treatment in statute and these bills begin that recognition. The state's own program that offers supplemental coverage, care coordination at the local level and family supports for children with a life limiting conditions is called the Children's Special Health Care Services Program.

As I am sure you can imagine, it is largely symbolic but incredibly meaningful to individuals, their families as well as their providers, that these children and youth be recognized in all Michigan statutes in a respectful and accurate way.

Thank you for you for your thoughtful consideration of these bills.

Sincerely,

Amy U. Zaagman
Executive Director